

ALLIES GAIN ON TWENTY-MILE LINE IN WEST; CAPTURE 20,000 UNWOUNDED WAR PRISONERS

BALKAN SITUATION REMAINS PUZZLE

Roumania Has Already Mobilized, and Greece Is Taking Similar Action.

MAY YET BE SMOOTHED OVER

Bulgaria Declares Its Mobilization Not Intended as Aggressive Character.

LONDON, September 26.—The situation in the Balkans and Bulgaria's intentions still are surrounded with mystery. Bulgaria, which has been definitely placed on the side of the central powers as the result of recent news from Sofia, officially informed the entente powers today that her mobilization was in the national interests and had not the slightest aggressive character.

The Bulgarian Premier, M. Radoslawoff, in an interview with the Sofia correspondent of the Berlin Tagesblatt, reiterated this statement, but it is noteworthy that while he said the measure was not directed against Greece or Roumania, he omitted Serbia, upon which have been considered to be the intention of the Bulgarian government in their effort to regain Macedonia.

Such an attack it is pointed out, would bring Greece to the side of her ally, and as in the last Balkan war, Greece, Serbia and possibly Roumania, would be found opposed to Bulgaria. Roumania has already mobilized, and Greece is taking similar action. The conclusion therefore has been drawn here that they, at least, fear that Bulgaria has aggressive designs, if not against Greece, then against Serbia.

KING AND PREMIER COMPOSE DIFFERENCES

King Constantine and the Greek Premier, M. Venizelos, apparently have entirely composed the differences which led to their separation when the Premier early in the war wished to join the allies against Turkey.

The whole matter may yet be smoothed over, as Bulgaria is continuing her negotiations with the entente powers, the Bulgarian minister at Petrograd having had a long conference with the Russian Foreign Minister, M. Sazonoff, while the ministers at other capitals insist that the Bulgarians would not fight against their old friends, Great Britain and Russia.

BULGARIAN MOBILIZATION NOT AN OFFENSIVE ACT

LONDON, September 26.—The Bulgarian government this morning officially communicated to the powers a note stating in the most categorical fashion, that the mobilization of the Bulgarian army was ordered in the national interest, and that it had not the slightest offensive character.

The text of the note is virtually the same as the wording of the semi-official statement issued at Sofia, September 25, which said that "the entry of Bulgaria into a state of armed neutrality is explained by changes which recently occurred in the political situation," and that "Bulgaria has not the slightest aggressive intention, but is firmly resolved to be fully armed to defend her rights and independence."

The official note to the powers also was dispatched from Sofia on September 26, so that it was framed before Greek mobilization had been decided upon.

Dr. Ghendoff, ex-Bulgarian Foreign Minister, whose inclusion in the Sofia Cabinet is reported to be a possibility has been known lately for his pro-entente views and it is believed here that unless he was certain of the government continuing its good relations with the entente powers he would not have assumed them of his position.

MOBILIZATION CONSTITUTES PREVENTIVE MEASURES

LONDON, September 26.—A dispatch from Athens to the Exchange Telegraph Company says:

"The Bulgarian minister to-day declared that the mobilization of the Bulgarian army was not directed toward any attack against Greece or Serbia, but that it constituted preventive measures in case Austro-German troops should advance as far as Vidin."

Vidin is a fortified town of Bulgaria on the Danube, 130 miles southeast of Belgrade, Serbia. It would be the first Bulgarian town to be reached by the Austro-German forces, should the predicted Teutonic advance toward Constantinople in aid of the Turks, succeed in crossing the northeastern corner of Serbia.

FORCED TO ADOPT ARMED NEUTRALITY

AMSTERDAM (via London), September 26.—The Bulgarian Premier, M. Radoslawoff, in an interview given the correspondent of the Berlin Tagesblatt at Sofia, confirms the statement made in the semi-official note issued at Sofia on September 23, that Bulgaria had been forced to adopt armed neutrality owing to the development of political and military events in the world war.

(Continued on Second Page.)

Passengers Burned to Death in Hay Car

Yaqui Indians Apply Torch to Train in Which There Are Women and Children.

SAN DIEGO, September 26.—Eighty passengers from a Southern-Pacific Mexican train were thrown into a car containing hay, and the car set on fire by a band of Yaqui Indians on Friday near Torres, Sonora, according to radio advices received here to-day from Hermosillo, via Guaymas.

Only twenty passengers have been accounted for thus far, the others having been burned to death.

The Indians, according to the report, numbered about sixty, and were deserters from one of the Mexican factional armies. They first derailed the train, which was running from Campo Verde to Torres, after which they placed the passengers, most of whom were women and children, in the hay car, and applied the torch. So far as is known no Americans were on the trains.

G. A. R. AT WASHINGTON

Thousands Already at Capital for Forty-Ninth Annual Reunion Which Begins To-Day.

Washington, September 26.—Washington welcomed to-night thousands of the Grand Army of the Republic host arriving for the forty-ninth annual reunion which begins to-morrow, and will reach a climax on Wednesday, when survivors of the Union army march from the Capitol to the White House in commemoration of the grand review after the close of the war. Between the States, President Wilson will review the parade from a grand stand erected in front of the White House, where President Johnson stood in 1865 to review the conquering army of the North. About 10,000 veterans, it is estimated, will participate in the celebration.

To-morrow twelve vessels of the United States Navy, submarines and destroyers, ordered here by Secretary Daniels for the occasion, will arrive. These vessels, all of a type unknown in Civil War days, will be open for inspection by the veterans, and daily demonstrations will be given by the naval officers for the instruction of the visitors.

ELECTRIC CAR HITS AUTO

Three Occupants of Machine Killed at Road Crossing Near Kenosha, Wis.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] KENOSHA, WIS., September 26.—Three men were killed this afternoon when a train on the Chicago and Milwaukee Electric Line ran into an automobile at a Burlington road crossing near Kenosha. The dead:

Fred Metten, aged 23.
Fred B. Pratt, aged 23.
Anthony Carkowski, aged 21.

The men killed were occupants of the automobile.

MUNITIONS SHIP SAILS

Steamer Tuscania, Carrying 7,000 Tons of War Materials, Begins Trip to Glasgow.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, September 26.—The steamship Tuscania, loaded with 7,000 tons of war munitions and general merchandise, sailed to-day for Glasgow. She was delayed twenty-four hours on her last westward trip, due to stopping in mid-ocean and rescuing passengers from the Greek liner Athos. She had a very small passenger list, and carried only three Americans, two in the second and one in the third cabins.

Another vessel to leave New York to-day was the Atlantic Transport liner Minnehaha, loaded with freight and horses, but carrying no passengers.

HESPERIAN EVIDENCE

Special Sailed Bag Containing Fragments of Torpedo Picked Up on Deck Arrives on Liner Cymric.

NEW YORK, September 26.—The White Star liner Cymric, which arrived here to-day from Liverpool, brought a special sealed bag containing matter for delivery to the British embassy in Washington. It was said that the bag contained fragments of the torpedo picked up on the deck of the Anchor line steamer Hesperian, sunk nearly four weeks ago in the war zone, together with additional letters and affidavits relating to the case of James F. J. Archibald, the American correspondent who was Ambassador Dumba's messenger.

MRS. ASTOR BECOMES NURSE

She Leaves for French Coast to Join Staff of Duchess of Westminster Hospital.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] ROME, September 26.—Mrs. John Astor has taken up nursing and has left for the French coast to join the staff of the Duchess of Westminster Hospital.

It was said that Mrs. Astor had been forced to adopt armed neutrality owing to the development of political and military events in the world war.

IT PAYS TO TRAVEL YORK RIVER LINE

To Baltimore and beyond. Excellent steamer service. Only \$2.50 one way; \$4.50 round trip. Delightful sail up Chesapeake Bay.

CONSULT WESTERN BANKERS ON LOAN

Four Members of Anglo-French Commission Will Leave for Chicago To-Day.

TERMS VIRTUALLY SETTLED

Entire Tentative Program Submitted to London and Paris for Approval.

NEW YORK, September 26.—The Anglo-French Financial Commission and Eastern bankers have reached a virtual agreement on the details of the proposed half-billion-dollar credit loan to Great Britain and France. Four members of the commission will leave here to-morrow afternoon for Chicago to confer with Western bankers over the tentative terms.

Following are the details of the loan upon which the commission and the bankers of Eastern States are in virtual accord:

The amount—approximately \$500,000,000.

The securities—joint Anglo-French notes.

The interest rate—5 per cent, to yield the investor about 5 1/2 per cent by the notes being offered at slightly under par. A conversion privilege at maturity of the notes—the holder to receive cash or joint Anglo-French fifteen or twenty-year bonds bearing 4 1/2 per cent interest.

CONFUTES REFERENCE OF U. S. TO PRECEDENTS

The note proceeds: "According to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the preamble of The Hague convention No. 13, of 1907, and supplemented by the general principles of neutrality, the Austro-Hungarian government considers the concentration of so much American energy on one aim; namely, the delivery of war material whereby, although not intentional, but, in fact, effective support is rendered one of the belligerent parties, is a 'fait nouveau' (departure), which constitutes the reference of the United States to supposed precedents.

THE DUAL GOVERNMENT IS FURTHER OF THE OPINION THAT THE EXCESSIVE EXPORT OF WAR MATERIAL IS NOT ADMISSIBLE, EVEN IF IT IS EXPORTED TO COUNTRIES OF BOTH BELLIGERENT PARTIES.

The above mentioned fait nouveau should be sufficient reason for altering the existing practice of the United States in regard to its observance of neutrality.

CAN OPEN WAY FOR COMMERCE WITH THE CENTRAL POWERS

The suggestion of the Austro-Hungarian government on the question of the supply of war materials was intended to prove that it is in the power of the United States to open the way for commerce with the central powers, because this possibility has been presented by the present powers by measures which even the government of the United States regards as illegal.

"The reference by the United States to the Boer War is less apposite since at that time England did not prohibit commerce and, therefore, there was no question of the commercial isolation of South Africa."

OFFICIALS MANIFEST LITTLE INTEREST

WASHINGTON, September 26.—The reply of Austria-Hungary to the American note on shipment of war materials has not reached here. Officials manifested little interest in the continuation by Austria of the controversy, the view being held that so far as the United States is concerned the incident has closed.

LAUGH WAY TO SUFFRAGE

May Irwin Starts on Her Smiling Pilgrimage in Cause of Votes for Women.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, September 26.—May Irwin is certain women can laugh their way to suffrage.

"The way to win a man," she says, "is to keep him in good humor, and there is nothing so contagious as laughter. Laugh, and the men laugh with you."

Miss Irwin ought to know, for she has been laughing all her life. Her motto is "laugh down the pests," and she has started on her smiling pilgrimage in the cause of suffrage for her sex. The question comes up before the voters of New York in November, and it is to be a crusade of laughter.

"That's why we are sure to win," says Miss Irwin. "We are simply going to laugh our way into our rights, and we are going to make the men laugh with us."

"You don't believe it? Well, just you wait until November 2, and see what a woman's laughter can do."

BALDWIN PLANT SOLD

Control of Locomotive Works Obtained by Charles M. Schwab and Du Pont Powder Company.

PHILADELPHIA, September 26.—Control of the Baldwin Locomotive Works in this city has been obtained by Charles M. Schwab, of the Bethlehem Steel Company, and the Du Pont Powder Company interests, according to well-authenticated reports here to-day.

According to the reports, which could not be confirmed to-night, the locomotive works will be reincorporated and converted into a plant for the manufacture of war munitions, railroad equipment and general steel products in association with the Bethlehem Steel Company.

WARSHIPS IN RESERVE

Three Transferred From First Line Fleet Because of Lack of Trained Men.

PHILADELPHIA, September 26.—The battleships Wisconsin, Ohio and Missouri are to be transferred from the first line fleet to the reserve, because of lack of trained men, it was said to-day at the Philadelphia Navy-Yard.

The pressing need of more men for the new Dreadnoughts was given as the reason for the withdrawal of a large number from each of these ships.

The Ohio and Missouri were built in 1906 and the Wisconsin in 1912.

RUEGER'S GRILL ROOM—RUEGER'S

Harry Meyers, clever cabaret entertainer, Grill Room to-night, 9 till midnight.

NO WAR ON NORMAL MUNITIONS TRAFFIC

Austria Protests Solely Against Economic Life of United States Becoming "Militarized."

REPLY TO NOTE OF AUGUST 12

Washington Officials Manifest Little Interest in Continuation of Controversy.

AMSTERDAM, September 26 (via London).—The Austro-Hungarian government, according to an official telegram received here to-day from Vienna, has in reply to the American note of August 12, relative to the manufacture of ammunition in the United States, reiterated the position taken in its protest of June 29.

The reply affirms that Austria-Hungary never intended to imply that it expected Washington would forbid American citizens to do a normal traffic in war material with the enemies of the dual monarchy, but solely protested against the economic life of the United States being made subservient to the production of war material on the greatest possible scale, whereby the United States became "militarized."

ANGLO-FRENCH FORCES BEGIN GREAT DRIVE FROM THE NORTH SEA TO SWISS FRONTIER

TWENTY thousand unwounded German prisoners and an unestimated number of dead and wounded on both sides is the toll taken in the first two days' drive of the Anglo-French forces, who have begun a great offensive movement along the western battle line, which extends from the North Sea to the Swiss frontier.

Two distinctive operations are under way, one north of Arras and the other in the Champagne region, while there has been an incessant bombardment along almost the entire front.

BOTH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL, CARRYING TRENCHES EXTENDING OVER A DISTANCE OF TWENTY MILES, AND AT DEPTHS VARYING UP TO TWO AND A HALF MILES. IT IS OFFICIALLY REPORTED, BOTH FROM PARIS AND LONDON, THAT THE ADVANCE IS STILL BEING CONTINUED, AND THAT THE GROUND GAINED IN A LARGE MEASURE HAS BEEN HELD AND CONSOLIDATED.

BERLIN ADMITS THE RETIREMENT OF THE GERMAN FORCES AT VARIOUS POINTS, BUT MINIMIZES THE RESULT OF THE ENGAGEMENTS.

For several weeks British and French artillery have been pounding.

Anglo-French Forces Begin Great Drive From the North Sea to Swiss Frontier

ing fiercely and continuously at the German line. The forward movement of the infantry began Saturday morning, when thousands of allied troops threw themselves against the German trenches, in which, though battered and torn by heavy shells, the Germans waited, having long expected the onslaught. Much of the fighting was at close range, hand-to-hand encounters being carried from trench to trench. The heavy artillery continued to pour forth a rain of heavy projectiles, while aviators took the air to direct the fighting, and themselves engaged in many combats.

In addition to having captured Souchez, a much-disputed point of vantage, the French have succeeded in forcing a passage of the great series of trenches and fortifications in Champagne, between Aubervilliers and Ville Sur Tourbe, driving the Germans to the second line of trenches, two or three miles to the rear. This offensive is still in progress.

The British gains have been made to the north of Arras. They have taken the town of Loos and the quarries northwest of Hulluch, and have compelled the Germans to draw on their reserves to check the advance.

ALLIES CONTINUE TO GAIN GROUND IN CHAMPAGNE

New Progress to North of Arras Reported in French Official Statement.

SOUCHEZ VILLAGE CAPTURED

Enemy Suffers, by Fire and in Hand-to-Hand Struggles, Very Important Losses—Considerable Material Left in Abandoned Trenches.

PARIS, September 26.—More than 12,000 Germans were taken prisoners by the French in a terrific battle yesterday in the Champagne district of France, according to an official statement to-day by the French War Department.

French troops penetrated the German lines along a front of fifteen miles and for a depth at some places of 2 1/2 miles, the announcement said. Stubborn fighting continues to-day in the Champagne sector.

The statement follows:

"In Aisne we maintained during the night the positions which we yesterday won. These include the Chateau de Carleul, the cemetery of Souchez, and the last trench which the enemy continued to occupy to the east of the fortified position called 'the labyrinth'."

"In the Champagne, stubborn fighting continues on the whole front. Our troops have penetrated the German lines along a front of 25 kilometers (fifteen miles) for a depth varying from one to four kilometers. Our troops in the course of the night maintained all the positions conquered."

"The number of prisoners actually enumerated exceeds 12,000."

"Except for one surprise action of our artillery on the German works in the region of Launois, in the 'can de Sept', there is nothing to report on the rest of the front."

TAKE MORE THAN 20,000 UNWOUNDED PRISONERS

On the western front the British and French have captured in two days more than 20,000 unwounded prisoners, according to French official communication issued to-night.

New progress by the French troops to the north of Arras also is reported. Souchez being stormed and captured.

IN CHAMPAGNE THE ALLIED FORCES STILL CONTINUE TO GAIN GROUND.

The statement follows:

"Our attack to the north of Arras has realized fresh progress. We have occupied by sheer force all the village of Souchez and have advanced toward the east in the direction of Givency."

"More to the south we recaptured La Polle and pushed to the north of Thelus as far as the destroyed telegraph. We took in the course of this action about 1,000 prisoners."

"In Champagne our troops continue to gain ground. After having crossed on nearly the whole front extending between Aubervilliers and Ville Sur Tourbe the powerful network of trenches, passages, small forts and shelters perfected by the enemy during long months, our troops advanced toward the north compelling the German troops to fall back on their trenches of the second position, from three to four kilometers to the rear. The struggle continues on the whole front."

"We have reached L'Epine de Vedegrange and passed the cabin on the road from Souain to Somme-Py and the hut on the road from Souain to Tahure. More to the east we are holding the farm of Maisons de Champagne."

"The enemy has suffered by our fire, and, in hand-to-hand struggles, very important losses. He left in the works which he abandoned considerable material which has not yet been inventoried. Already the capture of twenty-four flags is recorded. The number of prisoners is increasing steadily, and is actually more than 16,000 men, not wounded, of whom at least 200 are officers."

FIRST OFFENSIVE MOVE IN MONTHS AGAINST GERMANS

Follows Several Weeks Almost Incessant Shelling of Enemy Lines.

WARSHIPS BOMBARD POSITIONS ON COAST

ii Advance Continues, Teutons May Be Forced to Yield Verdun.

FIERCE FIGHTING IN PROGRESS

British Push Forward Gives Them Possession of Road From Lens to La Bassee.

LONDON, September 26.—German trenches along a front of twenty miles between the Belgian coast and Verdun, and more than 20,000 unwounded prisoners, besides thirty-two field guns and many machine guns have been captured by the British and French armies in the first offensive movement on the western front in months. The allied drive began Saturday morning, and the fighting continues.

THE OFFENSIVE FOLLOWED A SEVERAL WEEKS' ALMOST INCESSANT BOMBARDMENT OF GERMAN POSITIONS WITH BIG GUNS, WHICH LATE LAST WEEK INCREASED IN INTENSITY, PARTICULARLY IN THE SECTORS WHERE THE INFANTRY ATTACKS TOOK PLACE. SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE DRIVE OF THE ARMIES, BRITISH WARSHIPS AND FRENCH AND BELGIAN BATTERIES HEAVILY BOMBARDED THE GERMAN POSITIONS ON THE COAST BETWEEN ZEEBRUGGE AND NIEUPORT.

The French, who have the most important gains to their credit, made their chief onset against the German lines around Perthes, Beausjour and Suippes and Champagne, where in December they made a considerable gain of ground, and also north of Arras, where Souchez was stormed and captured.

ALLIES CONTINUE TO GAIN GROUND IN CHAMPAGNE

The French communication to-night says the allied forces continued to gain ground in Champagne. With the advances thus recorded, this offensive has given the French possession of more territory than they had retaken from the Germans since the latter dug themselves in after the battle of the Marne.

According to the French account, the Germans were driven out of their trenches over a front of more than fifteen miles, varying in depth from three-quarters of a mile to two and a half miles. The French in this engagement captured 12,000 prisoners. Apparently the advantage is being pressed still further, as the French communication makes only the briefest mention of the operation.

The importance of this gain lies in the fact that every yard of ground taken in this region weakens the German position around Verdun, from which the Germans might be compelled to retire should the French succeed in making any further advance.

The French also have stormed and captured Souchez and trenches east of the "labyrinth" in the Arras district, which was the scene of much heavy fighting earlier in the year. There the Germans had built what they considered almost impregnable fortifications.

BRITISH CO-OPERATE IN ATTACK ON TRENCHES

This attack was made in co-operation with the British which attacked on either side of La Bassee Canal. The attack to the south of the canal was, Field Marshal Sir John French reports, a complete success. Trenches five miles in width, and about 4,000 yards in length, were taken at this point.

This push forward gives the British possession of the road from Lens to La Bassee, which was used by the Germans for moving troops and supplies north and south, and threatens to outflank the German troops which hold the town of Lens.

Hill No. 70, one of the positions taken on the road, is less than a mile directly north of Lens, while Hulluch, which also fell into the hands of the British, is at the end of the road near La Bassee. It is only twelve miles from Hulluch to Lille, the capital of Northern France.

North of the canal, the British, although they fought all day yesterday, were unable to hold the ground gained, and had to fall back to the trenches, which they had left in the morning. The attack, however, accomplished one purpose, as, according to Field Marshal French, German reserves were sent to check this move, thus giving the British south of the canal an opportunity to consolidate their new positions unmolested.

SIMILAR MANEUVER NEAR THE MENIN ROAD

A somewhat similar maneuver took place to the north and south of the Menin road, east of Ypres, and the results were the same. North of the road, the British were unable to hold the ground taken, while south of the road they gained about 800 yards of the German trenches and consolidated the ground won. So far as is reported, the British took 700 prisoners with thirty-